

HOUSE BILL 666

By Baird

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 5, Part 1; Title 5; Title 6 and Title 8,
relative to qualifications for election to county and
municipal offices.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 2-5-1__.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, upon the effective date of this act, any person elected to any county or municipal office filled by vote of the people shall have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent in educational training as recognized by the Tennessee state board of education prior to filing a nominating petition for election to such office. A person seeking election to any elected county or municipal office shall certify on the person's nominating petition that the person has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent and shall submit an official copy of the person's diploma or its equivalent, or other proof deemed sufficient by the county election commission, with the nominating petition. Any person failing to comply with this section shall be disqualified from having the person's name placed on the election ballot for such elected county or municipal office.

(b) If a person holding an elected county or municipal office is alleged to have falsely certified that such person has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, then a public hearing shall be held by the county legislative body or the municipal legislative body, whichever is appropriate. A person found by a majority vote of the total membership of the legislative body to have falsely certified that such person has

obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent shall automatically become disqualified to continue in office and a vacancy shall exist.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall in no way be construed to apply to persons currently holding an elected county or municipal office until such time as the person is required to file a nominating petition for reelection to such office or election to another elected county or municipal office.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.